"It may be remarked that the centre of Indo-China, and especially the region traversed by the upper course of the Mekong, is made up of kingdoms and principalities, formed for the most part out of the same territory which surrounds a town, always at loggerheads with one another, absorbed one after the other by the strongest States and only maintaining their independence in the interval through the rivalry of their powerful neighbours. Paying tribute first to the one side and then to the other, sometimes [292] to both at once, these Laos States have often been as reasonably considered Burmese as Annamite, or later on, as Siamese. At war with Annam now and again, the Laotians of this region conquered Tonquin eight centuries ago, but it is, none the less, with the Court of Hué that Luang Prabang preserves the closest ties. The chronicles of the town, which have been very conscientiously kept and which were saved from the flames by M. Pavie, testify in many passages to this state of dependency; and among these annals may be found the narrative of an invasion of Annamite troops in the seventeenth century which led to the suicide of the sovereign of Luang Prabang. (1) At a more

1. The legend has it that the king, when on the point of being made prisoner, had himself attached to the trunk of an elephant and the animal taken down into the river. A pagoda was erected in memory of the drowned ruler.

recent date eye-witnesses have related the expedition of Deo Van Tri referred to in a previous chapter, the Laf chief assuming his right to treat with the king upon behalf of the Emperor of Annam."

23: Franck--320-321 T-2 (1924) 1926 Laotians
116, 631

"There are really four kings in the Kingdom of the Divine Buddha, or were until one of them recently died. None of them are to be replaced, however, as they pass on toward Nirvana, except this real one with the title of Majesté. The others are merely Excellences. Twice a year all the chiefs of Luang Prabang, which is a province of Laos as well as a kingdom, come to the capital for a conference under the [321] French commissaire. It is a leisurely conference, one fancies, for the people of Luang Prabang, high or low, do not include the word 'hurry' in their active vocabulary."

25: Brodrick--12 S-3 (1939) 1948 Laotians
631, 642

"Constitutions were adopted in 1947 for both Cambodia and the Laos, but in the latter country the sovereign has rather more power than in the former. All the public acts of H. M. King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia must be countersigned by the Prime Minister and another member of the Cabinet. Only one countersignature is required in the Laos where, moreover, when Parliament is not sitting the monarch may govern by decrees which, however, must be ratified later by the elected representatives of the people.

After the Japanese surrender the 'Free Laotians' (protected by the Chinese army of occupation) secured the abdication of King Sisavong Vong of Luang Prabang. A 'constitutional' government was then set up which restored the King as the ruler of an independent Laos comprising not only his former kingdom of Luang Prabang, but all the Laotian territories of Indo-China."

25: Brodrick--86 S-3 (1939) 1948 Laotians
116, 631

"The Laos, a country without a name, is just the land of the Lao people split into two parts--the southern and eastern, that was administered directly by the French, and the north-western, ... the kingdom of Luang-Prabang ruled over by His Majesty King Sisavang Vong."

25: Brodrick--102-103 S-3 (1939) 1948 Laotians-1-2
116, 162, 631

"The Kingdom of Luang-Prabang, despite its meagre population, does extend over what, in almost any other part of the world, would be a great area. In addition to the province of Luang-Prabang itself, and that of Houaphan, . . . there is northern Phong-Saly marching with Chinese Yünnan and the jumbled mountains of western Tongking. In all this Phong-Saly there are no more than fifty Europeans and few enough Laotians. . . . Phong-Saly is a region of a hundred peoples, many of whom burn the vegetation to sow their hardy crops. A region of a hundred peoples, immigrants from the north like the Thais themselves, of the tall and graceful Lu, of the Phu Noi, of the Meo, broad-faced and cheerful, whose women wear immense turbans rolled and rolled and twisted to inverted cones, of tribes half-naked, of tribes gorgeously robed in complicated fashions, of the A Kha from Yünnan, a people whose jingling, bold-eyed women induce some fanciful Frenchmen to call them the gypsies of Indo-China. And then there are the Kha Khmu, negroid, dark and squat, without doubt an ancient stock showing something of that pre-Indonesian type once spread far and wide in all Indo-China. And each group lives isolated from its neighbours by language, customs and tradition, and even by style of architecture. One would hardly think that such variety could be displayed in setting up a bamboo hut. . .

There is a relatively small area known as the Haut-Mékong wedged in between Luang-Prabang, China, Burma and Siam, but the Haut-Mékong is no part of the Realm of Ten

Thousand Elephants and is directly administered by the French, who gained their footing here during the negotiations, quarrels and manoeuvring between France and Britain in the eighties and nineties of the last century. [103] The capital of the Haut-Mékong, Ban-Houei-Sai, on the left bank of the Mekong, is full of immigrant Burmans."

26: Brodrick--60 S-3 (1939) 1944 Laotians
116, 631, 177.63 France
636.63

"Most of the Laos region is under direct French administration, but the kingdom of Luang-Prabang (consisting of the provinces of Luang-Prabang, of Houaphan and of the Fifth Military Territory) is a 'protectorate.' Until 1893 the Siamese were in effective possession of about one-half of the Luang-Prabang realm, but by 1904 the French had obtained the cession of the whole of the kingdom."

28: Crawfurd--215-216 G-3 (1821) 1830 Laotians - 1-2
116, 162, 361, 631

"The country of the Lao, a people speaking a dialect of the Siamese language, appears to be divided between the Siamese, the Chinese, and the Burmans. It is composed of petty states, tributary to those three powers. Four of these are under the dominion of Siam; namely, Changmai, Lan-chang, Pasak, and Luang-phra-bang. Their chiefs are hereditary princes. The first of those named places, has sometimes been written Zimai and Jang-mai, and is evidently the district which the authors of the Modern Universal His- [216] tory have converted into a kingdom, under the name of Jangoma. The town is situated upon the Menam, where it is so shallow as only to be navigable for small canoes. The distance from Bangkok to it was described to me as a month's journey, chiefly by water. Lan-chang, always considered the capital of Lao, is situated in about 15° 45' North latitude, on the great river of Kamboja, which is here as broad and as large as the Menam at Bangkok. It was described to me as being as populous as this last place; of which I have great doubt, because it has comparatively little foreign trade, is not much resorted to by Chinese, and is not the seat of a court. Among its inhabitants are said to be about eight thousand Chinese of the neighbouring province of Yunan, commonly known to the Siamese by the names of Ho and Nung-seh. Besides the four towns, with their provinces, above stated, a fifth considerable place was mentioned to me by a native of the country, under the name of Siang-kwang, situated about fifteen days' journey to the north-east of Lang-chang. An alphabet, and other specimens

of the language of the inhabitants of this portion of Lao, was shown to me at Bangkok. It appeared to be rude, and did not, as usual, follow the classification of the Nagri. The Siamese reckon, in all their portion of Lao, one hundred and one towns, large and small."

68: Mouhot--85-86 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians
116, 131, 728, 631, 162, 177.63 Siam
636.63

"A great number of the inhabitants of this province [HD: i.e. Saraburi, in Siam] are natives of Laos, and are principally captives brought from Vien Chang after the insurrection there. The provinces of Boatioume and Petchaboune are peopled by Siamese, for Laos proper only commences at M'Lôm. Boatioume, Petchaboune, Sôm, and some other provinces in the north and east, are governed by Siamese mandarins of rank more or less elevated; that is to say, several of them have the power of life and death, and are [86]then considered as viceroys. The most distant provinces belong to the empire of Siam, and form a part of it."

68: Mouhot--105-106 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians-1-2
116, 631, 122, 177.63 Siam
636.63

"On the 28th February, 1861, I arrived at the town of Chaiapume, [HD: at that time a Laotian town tributary to Siam] and presented myself before the governor to request his permission to hire some elephants or oxen to enable me to continue my journey. I showed him my French passport, and also gave him the letter from Khrom Luang, [HD: one of the brothers of the King of Siam] and another from the Governor of Korat; [HD: an important outlying province of Siam. See category 116, p. 115] but all in vain. He replied that, if I wanted oxen or elephants, there were plenty in the forest. I might easily have done without the assistance of this functionary, and procured animals from people in the village; but they would have made me pay two or three times the ordinary price, and my purse was too slenderly filled to allow of my submitting to this extortion, which would probably be repeated at every station.

The only thing left me to do, therefore, was to retrace my steps, and, leaving one of my servants at Korat with [106] my baggage, to return to Bangkok and claim aid from the consul, the ministers, or the king himself; for there is a treaty between the Governments of Siam and France, concluded by M. de Montigny, which obliges the king to afford assistance and protection to the French, and especially to missionaries and naturalists. It was a sad loss of time for me, and might occasion me serious inconvenience; for, if I were delayed, the rainy season might surprise me in the midst of the

forests before I could reach a healthier region, and the consequences might be fatal. However, I was forced to submit, and I returned to Bangkok."

68: Mouhot--113 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians
116, 579, 162, 631, 177.63 Siam
636.63

"These precautions are very necessary, for Korat is a nest of robbers and assassins, the resort of all the scum of the Laotian and Siamese races. Bandits and vagrants, escaped from slavery or from prison, gather here like the vultures and wolves which follow armies and caravans. It is not that they enjoy complete immunity, for the [HD: Siamese] governor, son of Bodine, the general who conquered Battambong and the revolted provinces, is viceroy of the state, has absolute power of life and death, and is, they say, very severe, cutting off a head or a hand with little compunction. But still it is Siamese justice, 'non inviola:' there are neither gendarmes nor police; the person robbed must himself arrest the offender and bring him before the judge. Even his neighbour will give no assistance in the capture."

68: Mouhot--115 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians
116, 439, 631, 651, 177.63 Siam
636.63

"The merchants who bring silk, [HD: to Korat, Siam] which, though of inferior quality, is an important article of commerce, come from Laos, Oubone, Bassac, and Jasoutone.

The entire province of Korat comprises a number of villages, and more than eleven towns, some containing as many as fifty or sixty thousand inhabitants. This little state is simply tributary, [HD: to Siam] but on condition of furnishing the first and most considerable levy of men in case of war.

The tribute consists of gold or silver, and in several districts, amongst others those of Chaiapume and Poukiéan, amounts to eight ticals a head. Some pay in silk, which is weighed by the mandarins, who, as with the cardamom at Pursat, and the langoutis at Battambong, buy a further quantity on their own account, and at their own price.

Elephants are numerous, and a great many are brought from the north of Laos as far as Muang-Lang. I should think there must be more than a thousand of these animals in each province. Oxen and buffaloes were formerly exceedingly cheap, but the distemper, which has for some years committed great ravages among the herds, has doubled or tripled the price. They are brought southward from the extreme north of East Laos, and even from the frontiers of Tonquin."

68: Mouhot--120-121 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians· Siam

116. 609. 122. 631. 177.63
636.63

"I was again delayed a few days at Korat before I could obtain elephants, in consequence of the absence of the viceroy; but on his return he received me in a friendly manner, and gave me a letter of introduction to the governors of the provinces under his jurisdiction. He likewise furnished me with two elephants for myself and servants, and two others for my baggage; so at last I was able to set out for Chaiapume. Before I started, the Chinese with whom I lodged gave me the following advice: --'Buy a tam-tam, and, wherever you halt, sound it. They will say, "Here is an officer of the king;" robbers will keep aloof, and the authorities will respect you. If this does not answer, the only plan to get rid of all the difficulties which the Laotian officials will be sure to throw in your way is to have a good stick, the longer the better. Try it on the back of any mandarin who makes the least resistance and will not do what you wish. Put all delicacy aside. Laos is not like a country of the whites. Follow my advice, and you will find it good.'

I was, however, much better received on my second visit to Chaiapume, and required neither tam-tam nor cane. The sight of the elephants and the order from the viceroy of Korat made the mandarin as supple as a glove, and he provided me with other elephants for a visit to some ruins existing about 3 leagues north of the town, at the foot of a mountain. The superstitious Laotians say that [121]these ruins contain gold, but that every one who has sought for it has been struck with madness."

68: Mouhot--129-130 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians
116, 122, 609, 631, 177.63 Siam
636.63

"[HD: Going north to Pak Lai] I soon found that, but for the letter from the governor of Korat, I should have met everywhere with the same reception as at Chaiapume; however, this missive was very positively worded. Wherever I went, the authorities were ordered to furnish me with elephants, and supply me with all necessary provisions, as if I were a king's envoy. I was much amused to see these petty provincial chiefs executing the orders of my servants, and evidently in dread lest, following the Siamese custom, I should use the stick.

One of my men, to give himself importance, had tied one of these bugbears to the arms which he carried, and the sight of it alone sufficed, with the sound of the tam-tam, to inspire fear, whilst small presents judiciously distributed, and a little money to the cornacs, [HD: elephant drivers] procured me the sympathy of the people.

Most of the villages are situated about a day's journey from one another, but frequently you have to travel for three or four days without seeing a single habitation, [130] and then you have no alternative but to sleep in the jungle."

68: Mouhot--251 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians
116, 122, 631, 177.63 Siam
636.63

"I have done everything in my power to obtain letters and passports [HD: to Laos] from the French and Siamese authorities here, [HD: i.e. in Bangkok, Siam] but all have been nearly useless. I have obtained nothing but a letter from the King's brother, [HD: Khrom Luang] who has the superintendence of the provinces north of Laos, and with that I trust to be able to get on."

68: Mouhot--256-257 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians
116, 122, 631, 177.63 Siam
636.63

"When I reached Chaiapume, I went to the governor with my letters, and asked him to lend me elephants to enable me to continue my journey, that being the only method of travelling among these mountains; but he refused me decidedly, and consequently I have been forced to retrace my steps. Here one can do nothing without the help of the people in power.

I therefore returned to Korat, and established Phrai in a [257] hut which I hired of a Chinese; and went myself to Bangkok, to procure from the authorities orders to the different governors of provinces to aid me instead of throwing obstacles in my way."

68: Mouhot--258-260 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians-1-4
116, 122, 609, 631, 177.63 Siam
636.63

"[HD: Excerpt from one of Mouhot's letters to his wife] You will be much surprised on receiving this letter to see it dated from Saraburi, [HD: in Siam] for if you have received the one I wrote in January, you must believe me to be already in Laos. But man proposes, and God disposes. However, to reassure you, I must begin by saying that I am in perfect health, and full of strength and hope. All goes well with me.

I had in fact reached Laos. I arrived at Korat after a tedious and troublesome journey, for I had only a few oxen for my baggage, and was forced to walk myself. From there I went to Chaiapume, and here an animal of the mandarin species made himself great, and under the pretext of having no elephants refused me the means of going further, and was so rude and impolite to me that I determined at once to return and protest against the very insufficient protection which had been granted to me. Indeed, I could do nothing else, not being able to go on. The elephant which had brought me to Chaiapume took me back to Korat, and there I found a mandarin from Bangkok, who had been sent to fetch a white elephant which had been taken in Laos. I begged him to let me join his party, and he lent me two elephants, one for my servant and luggage, and one for myself. I left Phrai at Korat, with the greater part of my possessions, having hired a room for him in the house of a Chinese, and a week afterwards found myself back at Saraburi, in company with this strange divinity (who, by the way, had

more black than white about him), and of the grand personage who had been sent to escort him, and who had showered on him every kind of attention during the journey. He had an escort of fifty foot soldiers and several on horseback. As for me, I wanted for nothing; at every halt the mandarin sent me ducks, fish, fruit, sweetmeats, &c., and he was [259] also kind enough to allow me eight men as night-guards to watch round my fire. In return, I discovered for him in the mountains large quantities of copper, and even gold, which delighted him.

The whole province of Saraburi was in motion to do honour to the white elephant; the King and all his court are coming here; the ministers are here already to watch over him. I decided, therefore, to apply to the Siamese, hoping to obtain more from them than from the Europeans; and yesterday hearing of the arrival of Khrom Luang, the King's brother, I hastened to address myself to him. He, however, had only passed through, and was gone to Prabat, to join the King. However, I found here the man I wanted, the mandarin who has most interest in Laos, and without a letter from whom it would have been difficult to proceed. I did not know him, but I went to him to ask about the Prince, and told him what I wanted. 'I am your man,' said he; 'the Prince can only give an order for me to write a letter, such as I will give you, if you like.' I accepted gladly, and promised him in return my double-barrelled gun, which I could easily replace, 'if

he would only furnish me with the means of travelling through Laos without expense, and would bring the Chaiapume mandarin to reason.' The poor governor of Saraburi was with us, and had to remain more than an hour amidst a number of others kneeling on the bare ground, while I was seated on the mat of the mandarin, by his side, eating sweetmeats and drinking tea, while he dictated a letter in which he called the governor of Chaiapume a fool, and threatened to deprive him of his office, and of this letter I was to be the bearer; and he promised me another general one on the morrow, in which he stated that if I did not receive efficient aid it might bring on a war; [HD: i.e. with France who was then occupying Cochinchina] and this he also repeated to all the chiefs present. My cause was gained, and I could plainly see that our affairs must be going on well in Cochin China; the echo of the cannon had its effect in Siam. However, I had pro-
[260] mised him my gun, and evidently he wished to have it before he gave me the letters This morning, therefore, I took it to him all cleaned and furbished up. He was delighted with it, and gave me at once the letter for Korat and Chaiapume, and to-morrow I am to have one which will carry me all through Laos without any expense but a few ticals to the cornacs. [HD: i.e. elephant drivers] Without this, judging by what I had to pay for an elephant from Korat to Chaiapume, my purse would have been exhausted by the time I reached the north of Laos, and I should not have had the means of returning without

sending to Bangkok to ask for help, which would have been a work of difficulty, and, what is worse, I should have been exposed all along the route to the insolence of these arrogant mandarins. Now, they will all humble themselves before me, taking me for some important personage sent by the Emperor Napoleon or Queen Victoria to collect butterflies, insects, and birds for them. I shall no longer travel on foot, but on elephants, and shall want for nothing. Agree, then, with me, that out of evil comes good, or rather, that God does all for the best. When at Chaiapume I found myself obliged to retrace my steps, after so many fatigues, and so great a waste of money, I was only downcast for a few minutes; God almost immediately inspired me with the idea that all would turn to my advantage, and this persuasion never left me again. Unaccountably to myself, I was gayer on my return than I had been in coming, although then I was everywhere well received and kindly treated by the people. Even after my discourteous reception [HD: by the mandarin] at Chaiapume, all the inhabitants came to see me, to bring me little presents, and to express their regret that they could not aid me from fear of their chief. The head of the monastery took me to see some ruins similar to those in Cambodia, and gave me a tiger-skin; and all along the road I experienced the same kindness, and numbers came to me to ask for advice and various remedies."

68: Mouhot--276-277 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians-1-2
116, 122, 174, 609, 631, 177.63 Siam
636.63

"Notwithstanding the small population of Korat, it is the chief town of a province, or rather an extensive state, containing eleven towns or boroughs, chief towns of districts, and a great number of villages, more or less populated. Fifteen days' [277] journey brings you from Korat to Bassac on the banks of the Mekon, and in the same latitude.

My intention was to proceed northwards, only stopping in the province of Louang Prabang, and then to descend the river as far as Cambodia. I hired elephants, and five days after, having passed through several villages inhabited by the descendants of ancient Siamese colonists who had taken refuge there in time of war, passing continually through forests of resin trees thinly scattered, I arrived at Ban Prang, a village where I discovered a ruined tower, and also the remains of an ancient temple. The next place I arrived at was Chaiapoune, the principal Laotian town in the north, and the chief town of the district. Here also I found ruins; but they were inconsiderable, and seemed more like a Laotian imitation than the work of Khmer Dôme. The inscriptions on the other temples in the province of Korat resemble those of Ongcor: here I found upon a block of broken slate-stone an inscription in Laotian characters, but which is unintelligible even to the inhabitants of the country. These, with some remains of idols and towers at the foot of a mountain in the district, were the only vestiges of that ancient

68: Mouhot--276-277 N-5 (1858-61) 1864 Laotians-2
116, 122, 174, 609, 631, 177.63 Siam
636.63

civilization which I discovered in the north. Everything leads me to suppose that here also were the limits which separated the kingdom of Cambodia from that of Vieng Thiane, destroyed during the last war which the Siamese raised against the Western Laotians or white-bellies. It was in this district that I was stopped in my travels by the authorities of the country, who treated me with great rudeness, and who forbade the people to let me have any means of transport, even after seeing my passport. I was therefore obliged to retrace my steps, deploring the expense and loss of time in the best part of the year, and which will cause me serious inconvenience."

133 vast impenetrable forests and "the traveler sees only tall grass or
137 gigantic trees intertwined with lianas, then all at once, through a break in the foliage, he discovers the cascades of a river. This is the only noise to interrupt the impressive silence of these great forests" (2).

2. L. de Reinach, Le Laos, 1911.

133 Set against the huge mountain masses of Yunnan, this tormented region has always been the natural refuge of peoples driven out of India or China by famine, great invasions or religious discord, and its orography explains, in large measure, the multiplicity of tiny
/631/ states which were formed there throughout the ages. Its abrupt defiles radiate out and, so to speak, become calmed in the valleys of the Ménam, the Mékong and the Red River, and its principal substructure spreads out /5/ and ends in a vast plateau known as the plateau of Tran-Ninh, whose hillocks are planted with pine trees and drop suddenly from east to west.

In the southeast, however, the Tran-Ninh plateau clings "like an excrescence" to a long artery known as the Annamitic Chain which forms a distinct line of demarcation between Laos and Annam. This chain runs parallel to the coast in a northwest-southeast direction, and its peaks go all the way down to the Mékong by successive stages, first forming plateaus or folds of ground covered with thick forests (dông in Laotian), then slighter undulations where there are forest glades (khok in Laotian), and finally vast ricefields ending in the river.

The Mékong. This great river frontier which, over 800 kilometers of its length, marks the political separation of French Indo-China from the kingdom of Siam, gives life to Laos, together with its tributaries, "as the Nile constitutes Egypt." It fertilizes it with
/226/ its alluvia, feeds the native with its fish and guarantees transport for
/505/ his rafts and pirogues from north to south. But this liquid highway where nature seems to have taken pleasure in piling up obstacles and which is cut by numerous rapids and barred by waterfalls, can not be
/502/ /6/ regarded as usable for regular navigation over all of its length.

133 Fed by the melting snows of Tibet, the Mékong enters Laos through a capricious gorge, widens for a moment in the alluvia of an old lake basin and narrows again towards Luang-Prabang. Grandiose surroundings framed by the blue line of the far-off peaks give it what

539 separated the peoples and divided them among his sons:
174 1. Khoun-Lo received Muong-Swa, the land of millions of ele-
773 phants and of white parasols (Lan-Xang-Hom-Khao);

2. Chet-Chuong received Muong-Phoueun (plateau of Tran-Ninh and valley of the Nam-Nhiep as far as the vicinity of Borikane);

/32/ 3. Nhi-Fa-Lane received Muong-Ho (Sip-Song-Panas, the land of the Twelve Thousand Ricefields);

4. Chu-Song received Prakan (the Thai regions of Upper Tonkin and of the Black River);

5. Saya-Phong received Muong-Nioun (Xieng-Mai or Lan-Na, the land of millions of ricefields);

6. Kham-In received Muong-Louvo (Siam or Lan-Piyea, the land of millions of granaries);

7. Louk-Poun, finally, received Hongsavadi (Pegou and Pagan).

Before sending them forth Khoun-Borom said to the seven kings who were his children: "You shall live peacefully and as good neighbors, the elder ones not quarreling with their younger brothers... Go forth, and remember that you were born of the same womb."

174 It is not impossible that this division, in spite of its fabulous
631 character, should mark the first stage of the history of the Thaïs in the Mékong valley, at a time which the legend does not indicate but which might belong to the second half of the thirteenth century. This date would indeed correspond approximately to an inscription of Rama-Khameng, king of Sukhothaï, "written in Cambodian characters on the four sides of a sandstone stele" and translated by Father Schmitt, in which are mentioned for the first time the names of Vientiane and Vien-Kham (Tran-Ninh) in /33/ the basin of the "Khong river" (1). But whereas the Thaïs of the Ménam had succeeded, in the course of relatively brief stages, in forming a compact Siamese kingdom which was rapidly freed from Kmer domination, the Thaïs of the Mékong remained divided for a much longer time.

1. Cf. Mission Pavie, ibid. /Études diverses, Vol II, "Recherches sur l'Histoire du Cambodge du Laos et du Siam" (manuscripts translated by Auguste Pavie's Cambodians)/, pp. 175ff., and G. Maspero, "Le Royaume de Vieng-Chan" (Revue indochinoise, 1904, pp. 497 and 498).

Having probably come from their land of origin through the secondary valleys of the Nam-Ta, the Nam Ou and the Nam-Ngun, they founded more or less rival principalities: Cri Cudhamanagari (Muong-Swa-Luang-Prabang); Muong Phoueun (Xieng-Kham, later

Xieng-Khouang) and Candanapuri (Sayfong-Vientiane). At 174
first all these had to recognize the suzerainty of Angkor (2), then 631

2. Cf. G. Maspero, Ibid., and "Sayfong, une ville morte" (Bulletin de l'E.F.E.O., Vol. III, No. 1, January-March 1903).

they were conquered by the king of Sukhothai, as is revealed to us precisely by the inscription of Rama-Khameng.

This lack of unity between the principalities is to be ex- 174
plained in large part by the geographical configuration of the 631
country. The many level stretches of the Mékong, "separated 133
by rapids which were difficult to negotiate" and by this very fact "almost /34/ foreign to one another" (1), placed serious obstacles

1. Cf. G. Maspero, ibid. (Moeurs et coutumes de l'ancien Laos, p. 225.)

in the way of any political fusion of groups which were nevertheless of the same race and the same language and whose frontiers touched one another. It required all the energy of Fa-Ngoun "the Conqueror," the prince of Muong-Swa, to achieve Laotian unity in the following century after many campaigns, and even then chiefs of provinces (muong) continued to govern their fiefs in a spirit of independence which unceasingly impelled them to shake off the yoke of the sovereign. This vestige of feudalism was to remain, in the last analysis, the dominant characteristic of the whole history of these principalities which were shut off from one another in a natural isolation which favored the persistence of local authorities

/35/ CHAPTER IV

THE KINGDOM OF LAN-XANG (1353-1707)

Previous to 1315 A.D., the date of birth of Fa-Ngoun, the 175
tradition of Muong-Swa has preserved only a long list of names of native chieftains which unrolls into a tortuous labyrinth where Ariadne's thread is often broken. From the fables contained in the manuscripts on latania leaves which Auguste Pavie searched through meticulously during his first stay in Paklay, it is possible

643* one of his father's wives. He was now wandering about haphazardly
175* and implored their protection.
726

648* Capture of Xieng-Khouang. Fearful lest there should be an alliance
721 between Souvanna-Kham-Phong and the king of Tran-Ninh (whose reinforcements might take them from the rear in their direct march on Muong-Swa), they agreed to support the rebel. They went up the Nam-Nhiep and lay siege to Xieng-Khouang which they took by assault and whose king was put to death and replaced by Kham-Gno who acknowledged himself their vassal.

Capture of Xieng-Thong (Luang-Prabang). Reinforced by a Phoueun contingent, they then moved forward towards Xieng-Dong-Xieng-Thong. Their troops were divided into two armies, and one of these, under the command of Fa-Ngoun, entered the valley of the Nam-Khane. The other, under Phi-Fa, went down the Nam-Suong,
721 but the latter was stricken with cholera and died on the march at Hat-
643* Thoi. When he reached Dane-Khoua, Fa-Ngoun demanded that his
726 grandfather, Kham-Phong, abdicate in his favor. The latter was
175* highly indignant and moved to attack his grandson, whom he en-
648* countered at Pak-Ming. His troops were defeated and had to retreat
/762/ in disorder, /44/ his capital was captured and the old sovereign, "mad with shame and grief," hanged himself in his palace at Xieng-Thong.

726 At the age of thirty-seven Fa-Ngoun proclaimed himself king of
643* "Lan-Xang" and at once demanded submission of all the Thaï princes
175* of the Mékong. Without awaiting their "reactions" he set out to make
● 631 his authority accepted, and in a sort of triumphal march received the submission of all the chieftains of the northern muongs as far as the limits of the kingdoms of Xieng-Maï (Lan-Na) and Xieng-Houng (Sip-Song-Panas). He met with greater resistance in the south and had to enter into a struggle to the death against Phaya-Phao, prince of Vientiane, who had taken the leadership of the opposition.

175* The discovery by Georges Maspero in 1902, in the vicinity of the
633 present-day administrative capital of French Laos, of steles of Kmer
648* origin amidst the ruins of twenty-eight pagodas, makes it possible to
631 suppose that the first capital of the land was Say-Fong, that "dead city" stifled by the forest. In the time of its splendor it was the advanced citadel of Cambodian hegemony in Thaï territory, but its importance declined quite rapidly, doubtless with the first blows struck against the suzerainty of Angkor by the kings of Sukhothaï and

of Ayuthya. /45/ And even before it disappeared it had been supplanted by Vientiane, which was built some ten kilometers upstream, unless the two cities formed a single immense one or unless the first one moved without changing its name at first 175* 633 648* 631

Capture of Phaï-Nam (Vientiane) Whatever the case may be, the center of resistance against Fa-Ngoun was then called "Phaï-Nam" (thorny bamboos) because of the impenetrable vegetable belt which defended it like veritable ramparts. It resisted repeated assaults and Fa-Ngoun was able to get the better of it only by using a ruse. He had gold and silver projectiles shot at the bamboo enclosure and then simulated a retreat. The besieged army, seeing the royal troops fall back, thought that their delivery was at hand and came out to pick up the precious projectiles. Then the assailants suddenly returned to the charge and entered the city without difficulty (1). Phaya-Phao had to make his submission. 643* 721 175* 725 633 631

1. These tactics are celebrated in several Thaï legends to explain the capture of a stronghold.

He received his pardon and was kept on as governor of the principality.

In memory of this episode, the city was baptized /46/ "Vien-Kham" which signifies "gold enclosure." This was later corrupted to "Vientiane" (sandalwood enclosure) (1)

1. There is permanent confusion in the Laotian chronicles between the Vien-Kham on the banks of the Mékong and the Vien-Kham in Tran-Ninh.

Formation of the kingdom of Lan-Xang (1353). Fa-Ngoun, henceforth the uncontested master of a vast kingdom, gave it a strong organization and ruled over it as a despot. 643* 175* 642

He summoned an Oupahat or second king to him to assist him in his political duties and instituted a Council of ministers chosen from the princes of royal blood and arranged in a hierarchy according to their respective ranks and attributions. But he would suffer no infringement on his own authority, neither at court or in the provinces. He took terrible reprisals against the vassals who did not obey his orders blindly, and replaced nearly all of them in succession with mere governors as the fancy took him. /646/

643* 175* 642 Complaints against such tyranny, which had heretofore been unknown in the region of Lan-Xang, reached his father-in-law the king of Cambodia. The latter summoned his son-in-law to Angkor and in the name of the Buddhist precepts advised him to use /47/ moderation and "pity towards the weak" (1). Fa-Ngoun seemed to accept the

1. According to Auguste Pavie's translators, Fa-Ngoun was content merely to send an embassy to Angkor at the request of Queen Nang-Kéo.

lesson, was baptized in accordance with the rites of the Hinayana and himself urged that a Cambodian mission composed of clergymen, scholars and artisans be sent to Muong-Swa. Pha-Maha-Pasaman-Théla-Tiao, the head of the mission, brought the sacred books of orthodox Buddhism and a statue of Buddha which had been given to the Kmer sovereign by the king of Ceylon in the ninth century. This statue was the Prabang, which became the palladium of the kingdom of Lan-Xang (2).

2. When the mission passed through Vientiane the governor Phao is supposed to have requested and obtained the right to keep the statue in the city for three years. Many legends recount the voyage of the Prabang in diverse manners and disagree as to the route followed. Here again it may be a question of the Vien-Kham in Tran-Ninh.

346 175* 643* 103 The Prabang. When they reached their destination the Kmer workers began the construction of a temple, the Vat-Gnot-Kéo, where the Prabang was solemnly placed in 1358. But it was not until two centuries later, when the seat of the capital was transferred to Vientiane by the king Setthathirat (1563), that the name of Luang-Prabang was given to the city.

643* 175* 631 /48/ When he returned to his States Fa-Ngoun proclaimed himself Supreme Chief of religion and resumed, with a severe hand although never exceeding the bounds of firmness, the administration of the various territories which then made up the kingdom of Lan-Xang. These were, namely, Muong-Swa in the strict sense; Xieng-Khong in the north (present region of Houei-Sai); Vientiane, Hoi-Luang and Xieng-La (on the Mékong downstream from Vientiane), Muong-Kabang (Bassac) in the south; Kham-Keut (now the province of Cammon) and Muong-Van (Savannakhet) in the east.

victorious (1), and this expedition, which would seem to have 648*
643*

1. With the help of Trân-Ninh. 728
175*

been imposed on him, is the only campaign which is related during his long forty-three year reign.

According to the Annals he strictly observed the Buddhist teaching and followed, in a more docile manner than his father had done, the pious counsels of Pha-Maha-Pasaman-Thala-Tiao, his spiritual director, "and so his kingdom knew a long period of peace and prosperity." He was a great builder of temples, and erected the pagodas of Manorom, Ouposot (with a library which was given the manuscripts which had been brought from Angkor), and Xieng-Kang which was built in memory of his daughter, the young princess Sivayaka, who died of smallpox at the age of twelve. 643* 175* /645 792/

The Three Hundred Thousand Thaïs. In 1376 he gave orders for a general census of the inhabitants of Lang-Xang. The results gave 300,000 "registered" Thaïs, not counting women, children, bonzes, foreigners, slaves and Khas (2), and Oun-Hueun took /53/ 161 175* 654

2. The number of registered non-Thaïs was about 400,000.

/C. A. M. Translator's note. Page 53 is devoted to a map: "Lan-Xang and surrounding regions at the death of Fa-Ngoun (1374)". / as his reigning name Phaya-Sam-Sène-Thaï, the King of the Three Hundred Thousand Thais.

Social Organization. These folk then constituted a society grouped by families and divided into Nobles and Commoners. The Nobles were given certain privileges and helped to administer the kingdom, from the dignitaries who were princes of royal blood down to the simple officials who were responsible for collecting taxes, for assembling labor drafts, for transporting goods, etc. 631 565 175*

In the provinces the heads of circumscriptions (Muongs) were elected either from the Nobles or from the Commoners, but the choice of the electors generally fell on the son or some relative of the person who was to be replaced, unless there were some unworthiness or notorious incapability.

Frontier agreements with the neighboring kingdoms. In consequence of agreements reached with the princes of the peninsula, the frontiers of Lan-Xang were permanently fixed from Khone in the south to Pha-Day in the north, and from Siam in the west to Annam in the east. With this last country, to which Souligna had bound himself by taking one of King Le-duy-Ky's daughters as a concubine, it was agreed that all the people who lived in "houses on piles and with verandas" should be called subjects of the king of Vientiane, and that those who inhabited houses "without piles or verandas" should belong to Annam. /342/ 631 643* 175* 653

The stay of the Dutchman Van Wusthof in Vientiane (1641). In 1641 Vientiane was visited by the Dutch traveler Van Wusthof (2). /105/ The account which he has left of his stay in the 175* 114

2. A Jesuit, Father Jean-Marie Leria, had visited Vientiane before Van Wusthof and had returned to Annam by way of Hinboun and Vinh. Cf. G. Maspero, op. cit. /Un empire colonial francais: l'Indochine. Paris, 1929-1930./, and P. Martini, Relation de divers voyages curieux, published at Paris in 1666, "chez Sebastien Marbre-Cramoisy, imprimeur du Roy, rue Saint-Jacques, aux Cicognes."

capital of Lan-Xang contains precious information, even though it remains rather vague because of a lack of previous knowledge and of impartial observation (1). Thus Buddhism in Laos, for example,

1. Histoires singulieres qui se sont passees dans les royaumes du Cambodge et au pays du Laos, aux Indes orientales depuis l'annee 1635 jusqu'en l'annee 1664 avec le voyage des Neerlandais du Cambodge, en remontant la riviere de Laos, a Vinejan, la cour de S. M. le roi de Laos et enfin le cruel massacre qui a eu lieu au Cambodge par les Indiens en l'an 1643, published at Haarlem without any author's name and printed in 1669 by "Pieter Casteleyn, imprimeur demeurant au marche, dans la couronne imperiale." Cf. G. Maspero, op. cot. /Un empire colonial francais: l'Indochine. Paris, 1929-1930./

appeared to him as a crude "paganry," and the number of bonzes scandalized him, as did the morals of the gentle and sensual

633 be seen from a great distance. To be sure, it extends over a prodigi-
174 ous area and is so large that one would take it for a city... The king's
344 apartments, which are embellished with a superb and magnificent portico and a large number of beautiful rooms accompanied by a large parlor, are all made of wood which will not decay and ornamented inside and outside with excellent bas-reliefs so delicately gilded that they seem rather to be covered with flakes of gold than gold leaf.

"From that point one enters the courtyards which are extremely spacious, and one first sees a long line of houses built entirely of brick and roofed /113/ with tile in which the second wives usually stay, and outside another row of houses built alongside in the same symmetry for the mandarins' officers. I could write a whole volume if I undertook a minute description of all the other parts of the palace, the riches, the departments, the gardens and a number of other such things...

565 "The houses of the principal lords and of well-to-do persons are
342 very high and beautiful, and are all made of wood with a great deal
352 of artifice and a greater or lesser number of ornaments, depending on the expense to which the individuals are willing to go, but I must confess that the common people and the poor are housed extremely badly
/793/ and that their dwellings are cabins and huts rather than houses. Only the talapoins (bonzes), who are the priests of the idols, have permission to build their monasteries and houses out of brick and stone. Instead of rugs and other such furnishings, persons of quality use small reed mats in which the weave is so delicate and so highly ornamented with figures and various leaf patterns that, to my mind, there is nothing more beautiful nor more pleasing to the eye. They ordinarily use them to cover the walls of /114/ their rooms and houses inside and outside, which they keep very clean and of which they take particular care...

643* "The king is absolute and independent... all the land belongs to
/423/ him, and he disposes as absolute lord of all that his subjects possess...
● 631 offices, employment, honors and wealth depend absolutely on the
174 king, who raises those persons who please him most to the highest offices in the kingdom.... The principal dignities and offices of the kingdom are eight in number. The first is that of viceroy general... and because the kingdom is divided into seven provinces seven other viceroys are appointed... there are also other governments of less consequence which depend on the former both in respect to civil affairs and to those which concern war.... Each of these provinces has
/701/ its militia, which consists of infantry and cavalry.

domains after the retreat of the Chinese plunderers who had driven them out. 643* 648* 175*

who made common cause with them and raised an army of six thousand men in Muong-Hou and Muong-Thene, which he placed at their disposition.

The two brothers then returned to Luang-Prabang, attacked it and entered without any difficulty. Indeed Thao-Nong, not feeling able to resist them, had abandoned the city and taken the Prabang to Vientiane. King-Kitsarath at once assumed the title of King of Luang-Prabang and notified Sai-Ong-Hue that he regarded himself henceforth as sole master of the Laotian provinces to the north of Xieng-Khane, leaving "the king of Vientiane" sovereignty over the southern provinces (1707). 643* 642 175*

Schism of Lan-Xang into two kingdoms: Luang-Prabang and Vientiane (1707).

We do not know how Sai-Ong-Hue received this ultimatum which cut off from his kingdom /134/ nearly half of the territory under his authority. Indeed, he was in no position to undertake another large-scale expedition, preoccupied as he doubtless was with strengthening his status in Vientiane itself first, where his Annamite army had perhaps not been received with any great enthusiasm by his new subjects. He therefore had to accept his cousin's ultimatum, and Laos was divided into two independent kingdoms.

In the north was that of Luang-Prabang, which had as its limits Xieng-Khane, Pa-Kau-Dai (Kham-Phe-Khao), the Sip-Song-Chau-Thai (the twelve cantons of the Black River) and six cantons of the Houa-Phans (Thousand Springs). 642 631

In the south was the kingdom of Vientiane, which stretched from Xieng-Khane to Sup-Mi, to the Khone waterfalls, Phou-Sang-Tang-Hoe and Ba-Tam-Tan-Kao.

This was the end of Lan-Xang, for this schism was to be a mortal one. 643* 648*

From that time on the two principalities never ceased being jealous of one another, tearing at one another and increasing their servitude towards foreigners by calling the neighboring princes to their aid in order to recreate, each to his own profit, a Laotian unity which had become impossible by the terms of the old adage: "Every divided kingdom /135/ must perish." It was a fratricidal struggle in 175*

Laotian provinces, over which it exercised only nominal authority as yet (2). It must, however, combat the rights which Annam /161/

2. Even over the old principality of Vientiane, now three-quarters depopulated, where it had had the wisdom, or the weakness, to leave the old chiefs of muongs in charge of the government and had required of them only an oath of fidelity and the payment of personal and land taxes in the form of one large annual tribute. /631/

might one day be led to assert over these regions, and it must place them under military occupation so as to present the emperor Tu-Duc, and eventually the Quai d'Orsay, with a fait accompli without further delay. The great invasion of Tran-Ninh by the Hos was to furnish it a pretext in 1873.

/242/ Invasion of Tran-Ninh by the Hos (1872). A large band of "Red Flags," numbering about two thousand pirates who had been driven out of the Black River by the "Yellow Flags" towards the end of 1871, fell upon the plateau by way of Xieng-Ko, which it sacked despite the desperate resistance of the inhabitants, and entrenched itself in the island of Bandon near the village of Banban. A first column which Chao-Hung sent against it fled bravely at the first contact with the invaders, and since everything ends in a song in the land of Laos, their panic was at once turned to ridicule and put in couplets which are still sung today (1). 563 175* /167/ /579/

1. The following is a translation of the first of these couplets: 539

Sanousit leaves his opium pipe which is lost.
Sisania throws away his opium lamp.
Chao-un-Vico abandons his Annamite gong.
All is lost, all is thrown away.
They hide in the forest, gasping with fear.
They do not even keep so much as a pin.
They hasten homewards through the brush.
By the shortest road.
For three days it is impossible to eat.
Chao-un-Vico's face is no longer human (fear has distorted his features).

"It seems that this refrain was sung whenever Sanousit, 563 175*

643* Indeed King Zakarine, no matter what his attitude of detachment
648* towards power, was noteworthy for his simplicity, his good sense and
175* his ability to see /323/ the usefulness of certain reforms. For he was
/178/ very poorly seconded by the mandarins of the kingdom council (Senam),
/646/ who were "incompetent men and scoffers dominated by their immediate and individual interests" (1). On the whole, however, the

1. Cf. ibid., p. 78.

642 political and social organization which we found was a good one,
178 and we acted wisely in preserving all the mechanisms of the native administration and in respecting the traditions, customs and mores of the populations throughout all of Laos, insofar as they were compatible with our own institutions (2). This was all the more easy for

2. Thus we were led to suppress radically the slave traffic which was enriching a few Siamese, Cambodian, Laotian and Burmese mandarins. Cf. L. de Reinach, op. cit. /Le Laos (Posthumous edition), Paris, 1911./, pp. 230 ff.

us in that all the Laotian muongs (whether or not they were dependencies of Luang-Prabang) had a similar organization which was a smaller model of that of the kingdom (except for the Senam) and
647 was an obvious vestige of the epic times of Fa-Ngoum and the great
642 State of Lan-Xang (3). Like the king, the governors of /324/
631

3. The following was, in outline, the political organization of the kingdom of Luang-Prabang in 1894:

/643/* At its head the king, the great master of existences (Somdet-Phra-Chao), and the second king, the great master responsible for the preservation of property (Chao-Maha-Oupahat).

Then came the minister princes: the Ratsavong or first prince and right-hand minister; the Ratsabout or second prince and left-hand minister; and the Komakhoune or third and fourth princes and ministers of the center and of the civil services.

/646/ The first three mandarins, who bore the title of Phaya,
/693/ were, in order of importance: 1) the Phaya Muong-Sen or first right-hand mandarin, head of the Senam and head of of justice; 2) the Phaya Muong-Tiane or first left-hand

mandarin and head of the tribunal; 3) the Phaya Muong- 647
Khang or first mandarin of the center and head of the Serv- 642
ice of public works, transports, etc. 631

The Senam was composed of the Phaya Muong-Khoua or /646/
second right-hand mandarin, and of four councillors under the direction of the Phya Muong-Sen.

The judges or Kromakanes, who were under the Phaya /693/
Muong-Sen and the Phaya Muong-Tiane, numbered seven in all and included the Phaya Muong-Sai or second left-hand mandarin.

Last came the mandarins responsible for the collection of /653
taxes, the assembling of labor drafts and the transport of 644/
bamboo, rattan, thatch and pirogues for the king's service and the public services; then the pages and chamberlains or mahaleks, the military leaders, the functionaries responsible for petty tasks inside the palace, the treasurers, storekeepers, etc.

The reader will note the insignificant position reserved /701/
for the military mandarins in this hierarchy. Of Sam-Sene-Thai's powerful army (see above, p. 56), nothing at all remained.

provinces were aided by an Oupahat, a Ratsavong and a Ratsabout who, like the court dignitaries, gave their orders to the tassengs or canton heads who had authority over the village leaders (naibans). By establishing the different government commissions in Laos Pavie therefore strengthened the native authorities in their age-old prerogatives and the princes of Luang-Prabang in /325/ their dynastic rights and privileges. In order to mark their absolute attachment to France and to give more force to their vehement protests against awarding Siam the part of the kingdom situated on the right bank, the latter insisted on receiving, in solemn fashion and as soon as possible, the investiture of the government of the Republic from the commissioner general. After his return from Muong-Sing eight 643*
months later, Pavie drew up on parchment in Hanoi the titles of the old king Oun-Kham, of King Zakarine, of his brother and of the Oupahat Boun-Khong, and on April 19, 1895 proceeded to this important ceremony.

"All those who had a part in the control of affairs," he wrote as he finished the account of his mission, "were present. The entire populace was invited. In the name of the government of the

643 Republic and by delegation of the governor general of Indo-China, I confirmed the status of the princes in Laos, which had become a French possession. They piously accepted, from the man who loved their country so greatly, the responsibility of continuing under France's authority to lead it with wisdom and goodness" (1).

1. Mission Pavie, "Geographie et Voyages," Vol. II, p. 382.

/326/ Provisory administrative organization (July-August 1894).

642 Anxious to complete the provisional organization of the country and
631 to rejoin the Chinese and British missions of the Upper Mekong, he
647 left Luang-Prabang for the south on July 9, 1894, leaving his second-in-command Lefevre-Pontalis to establish in the north, together with Messrs. Macey and Garanger, the commercial agencies of Xieng-Khong and Xieng-Sen and the future commissions of Poukha and Muong-Ha-Hine (in the two Muong-Hou, while awaiting the imminent delimitation of the territory).

When he passed through Vientiane (July 14) he established M. Lugan in the new province which had been formed of the muongs of Tourakom, Borikane, Patchoum etc. and chose the site of the future commercial agency in Nongkhay. Then, continuing to go down-river, he made contact with the leaders of the left bank (including, among others, at the junction of the Nam-Nhiep, Chao-Kham-Ngon who was the last descendant of Chao-Noi and whom he had recognized as chaumuong of Xieng-Khouang).

In Middle Laos he took all necessary steps to establish the authority of the delegates of the superior resident in Annam over the old circumscriptions of Tran-Dinh, Cam-Lo and Quang-Dinh; to organize the regions of Hinboun /327/ /Page 327 is devoted to an illustration: "Bridge over the Nam-Khane at Luang-Prabang."--Translator/ /328/ (Faureville) and of Song-Khone (Savannakhet); and finally to make ready for the trips of the commercial agents destined for the posts on the right bank at Lakhone-Panom, Ban-Mouk and Kemmarat. Where the river joined the Sebanghien he was joined by the administrator Od'endhal who had just reached Song-Khone, and he agreed with him to extend the administration of this region as far as the muongs of Saravane and Attopeu.

In the south he visited the commercial agency which had been established ever since 1892 at Bassac, and greeted the latter's

phantom king (1) who had remained "under the guardianship of a 642
631

1. Chao-Kham-Souk, one of Chao-Houy's sons (see above p. 168 and p. 177, note 2) who had been placed on the throne by Bangkok in 1863. His fief had been dismembered by the treaty of 1893 and was in reality no longer anything but a Siamese province. He was to die in 1899. 647 /175*/

Siamese agent of an inferior type." At Khong he met Commander Tournier, who had been placed in charge of the Legion troops stationed between Stung-Treng and the islands of Khone, and who was also invested with civil powers in the muongs of the left bank while awaiting the imminent arrival of administrators from Cochinchina (this latter country was to organize the southern Laotian provinces at the expense of its own budget). On August 9 he witnessed the arrival of Lieutenant-commander Simon, the leader of a hydrographic mission /329/ which had been planned the year before by M. Delcasse. This mission was to employ the sloops La Grandiere and Massie and to go on surveillance duty on the Middle and Upper Mekong. With this purpose it was to: 1) trans-ship its cargo at Khone; 2) cross the dangerous defiles of Kemmarat by every possible means; and 3) stop "only where it was materially and absolutely impossible to get through." At the cost of tremendous effort the mission was to reach Luang-Prabang on September 1 and Tang-Ho on October 25, 1895 at a distance of 2500 kilometers from the sea and an altitude of more than four hundred meters (1). On 654 505

1. The bold results of the Simon mission demonstrated the possibility of organizing a regular navigation service from Saigon to Luang-Prabang by using either steam sloops or pirogues, depending on the season. The service was later established.

August 13 Pavie reached Pnom-Penh and then went to Hatien where the gunboat Vipere was waiting for him. The latter took him to Bangkok on the 20th, and scarcely had he landed when he hastened to inform both the Quai d'Orsay and Prince Devawongse of the discoveries he had made all along the Mekong, namely that the treaty had not been made known to the populace and that the king of Siam's proclamation relative to the return of former inhabitants of the left bank of the river to their own country was still unknown 648* 175*

"The story of Auguste Pavie should be placed in the hands of 000
our youth. It is a magnificent lesson in itself. To the ambitious
it shows how far a desire /338/ to learn combined with the passion
for action can lead; to patriots how one can serve one's country;
and to all how an ardent soul can ennoble the most humble tasks
and, springing from the humblest origins, can rise to the most
honored and most envied posts" (1).

1. Quoted by Colonel Friquegnon. Cf. Bulletin de l'Asie francaise, November-December 1925, No. 236, p. 356.

Final organization (1895-1899). The administrative organiza- 631
tion of the new possession had only been sketched out by Pavie dur- 642
ing his hasty descent of the Mekong. It was taken up and completed
by Superior Resident Boulloche, who was sent out on a mission in
May 1895. Laos was first divided into two territories or commands:

1. Upper Laos, with its capital at Luang-Prabang, including all the Muongs of the left bank situated between Yunnan, the British Shan States, Tonkin, Annam and Cammon exclusively, with the exception of the cantons of the Black River and a large part of the Houa-Phans; the first of these latter were attached to Tonkin and the second to the province of Thanh-Hoa (Annam);

2. Lower Laos, with its capital at Khong, formed of all the regions which had formerly been dependencies of the old /339/ kingdom of Vientiane and which were contained between the Annamitic Chain and the Mekong from Cammon to Cambodia.

A superior commandant was placed at the head of each of these 624
divisions, who was directly responsible to the governor general of 635
Indo-China. Each command was then subdivided into provinces or
"commissionerships" (six for Upper Laos, seven for Lower Laos),
each formed of a group of several muongs and headed by "govern-
ment commissioners" who were then given (except in Luang-Prabang)
the most varied duties and the most absolute initiative -- general
administration, police, taxes, public works, justice, public educa- /647/
tion and even, in most cases, medical help.

In 1899 the two circumscriptions were united under the authority 642
of a superior resident (1) with his seat in Savannakhet (shortly there-

1. Cf. decree of the governor general of February 6 and decree of the President of the Republic of April 19.

after in Vientiane), and unified Laos took its place in the Franco-

149: Reinach--4c G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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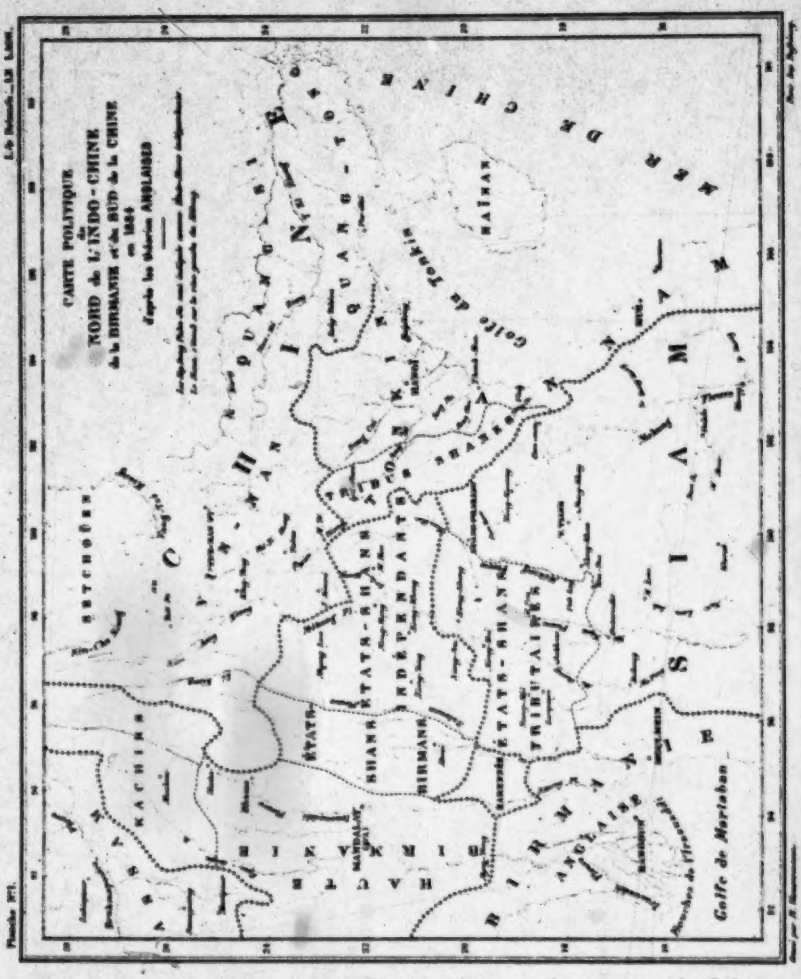

Political Map of the North of Indo-China, of Burma and of the South of China in 1884 according to British theories.

Plate 1 /facing p. 8/

149: Reinach--10b G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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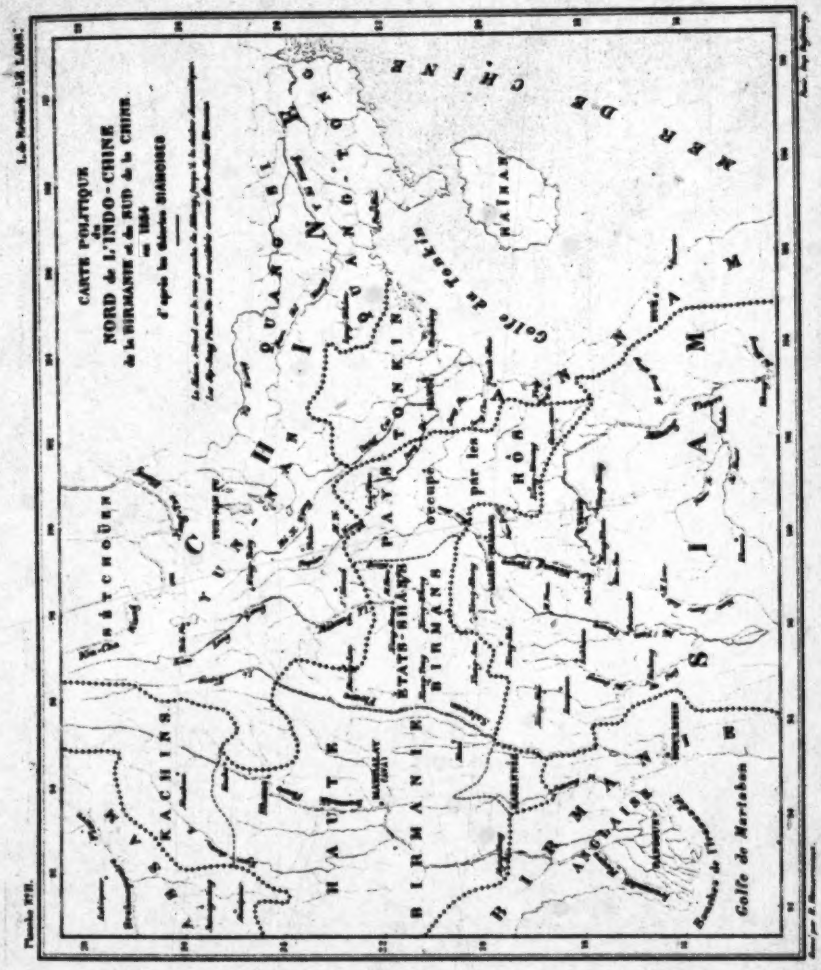

Political Map of the North of Indo-China, of Burma and of the South of China in 1884 according to Siamese theories.

Plate 2 /facing p. 16/

149: Reinach--15b G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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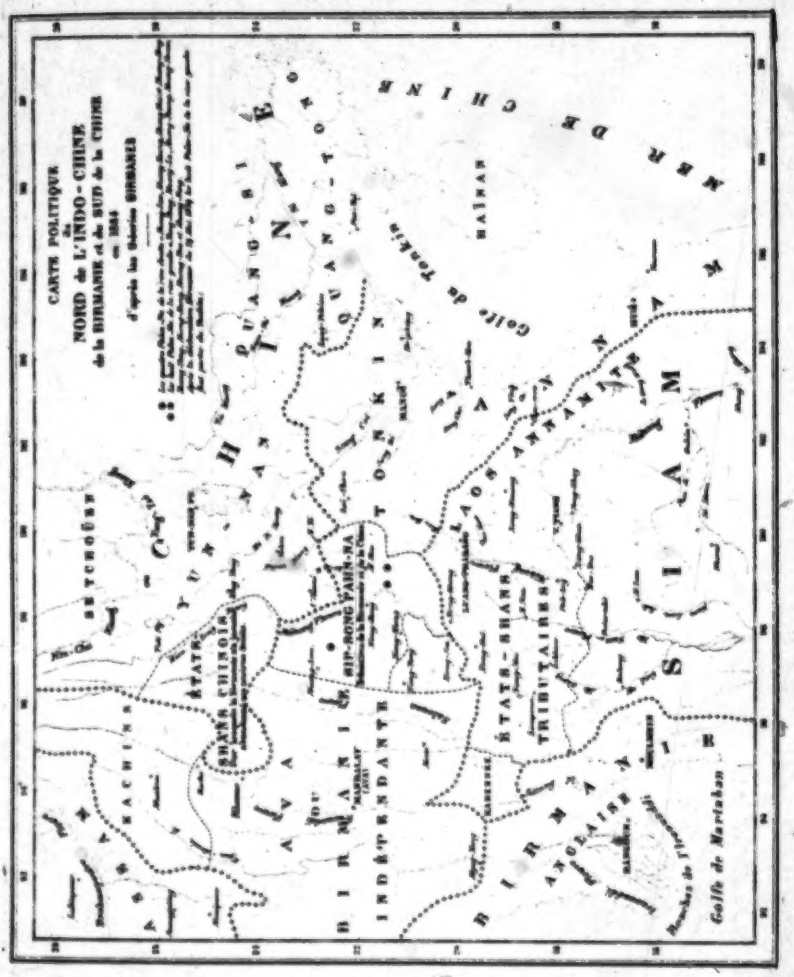

Political Map of the North of Indo-China, of Burma and of the South of China in 1884 according to Burmese theories.

Plate 3 /facing p. 24/

149: Reinach--23a G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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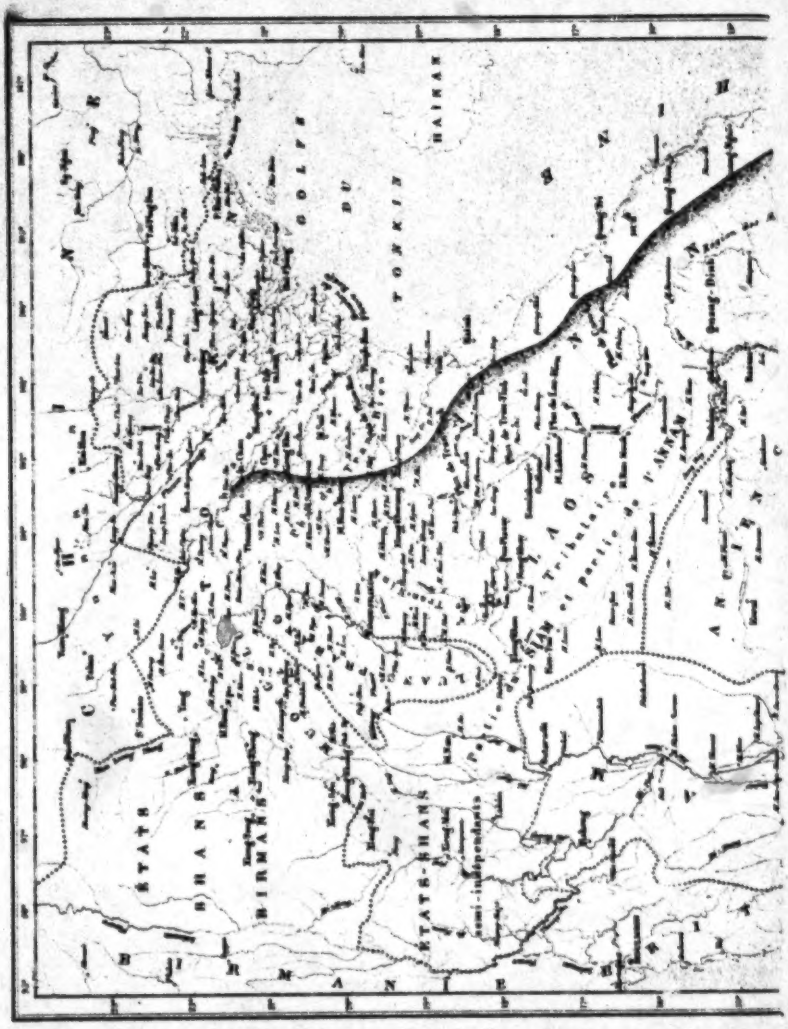

Political Map of Indo-China in 1893 before the Franco-Siamese Treaty of October 3.

Plate 4 Part A /between pp. 32 and 33/

149: Reinach--23b G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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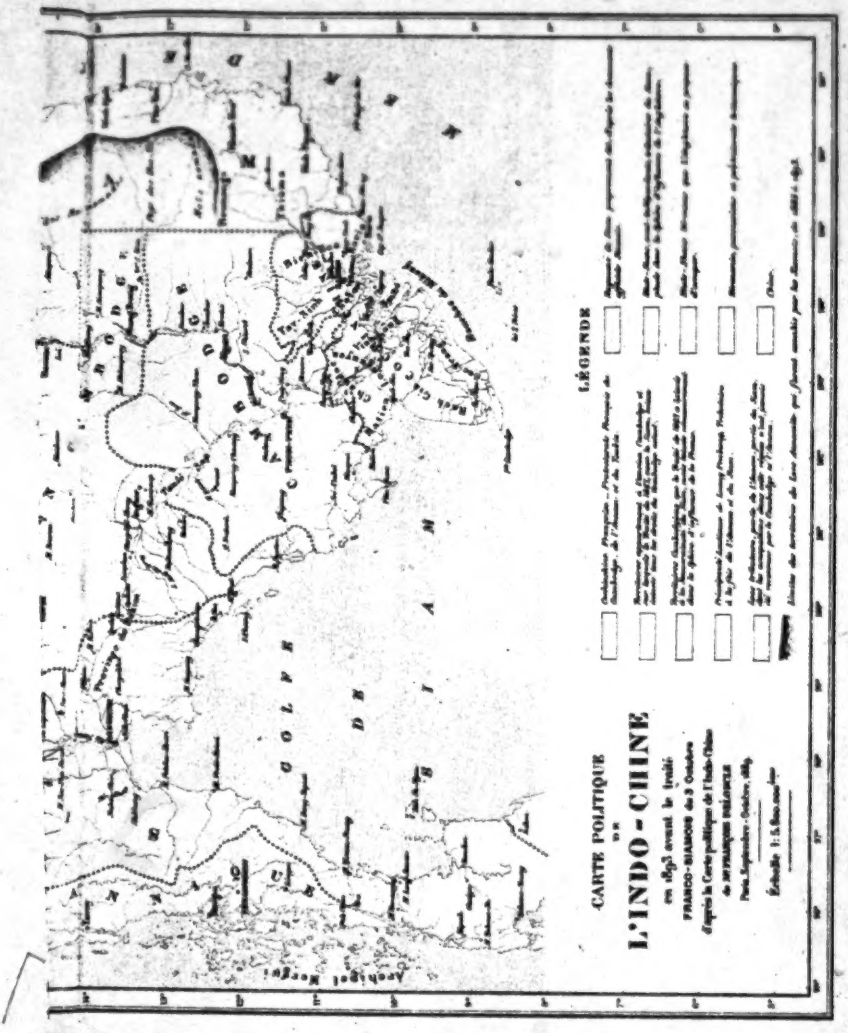

Political Map of Indo-China in 1893 before the Franco-Siamese Treaty of October 3.

Plate 4, Part B /between pp. 32 and 33/

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"The administration of public works of Cochinchina was particularly responsible for carrying out the work. The operation was directed by Messrs. Gubiand, the engineering director of public works, and Crouzat, the chief clerk of the department of civil engineering [conducteur principal des ponts et chaussées], and was fully successful despite the haste, the difficulties and the mishaps and tribulations which we had to undergo.

"On October 31, 1893, five months after the mission's arrival in Saigon, two ships, the Massie and the Ham-Luong, had passed the Khône waterfalls.

"The Ham-Luong was a sloop from Cochinchina which was sent at the last [68] moment and in all haste to replace the La Grandière numerically and provisorily, the latter being disabled below the falls as the result of grave damage to the engine."

After they had been floated in the upper reach the Massie and the Ham-Luong pushed on to Bassoc immediately, then to the junction with the Sé-Moun. The Massie finally reached Kemmarat on February 28, 1894, after successfully passing the 120 kilometers of rapids just below it. There the Massie had to wait for high water before it could pass the Keng-Sa, one of the most dangerous obstacles in this region. In the high water season of 1894 it was in the Vien-Tiane reach, where it showed the French flag over an extent of more than 500 kilometers. On September 5, 1894, the La Grandière went to Khône in its turn, on its way from one reach to another, and then in November caught up with the Massie which it soon passed. Finally in August 1895 Lieutenant Commander Simon took the La Grandière through the series of rapids stretching over a distance of 350 kilometers between Vien-Tiane and Luang-Prabang, which he reached on September 1.

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"This brilliant success demonstrated France's power to the friendly and hostile populations of the banks of the Mékong. Through the more frequent sight of our officers, our weapons and our cruising steamships, which ammounted to ambulatory offices, it strengthened the work accomplished by our diplomats on the left bank, which belonged to us henceforth" (1).

113

(1) Lanier, L'Asie, 1898. Selected readings in geography.

We rejoice at being able to render deserved homage here to the abilities of Commander Simon who, in the midst of the greatest

under the rocks, where it loses itself in an immense grotto. It can be navigated by pirogues in all seasons from Keng-Kièt on. [505] [133]

The large island of Don-Don is found between Pak-Hin-Boun and Lakhône.

Lakhone is an important center on the right bank located opposite Tha-Khèk, which is the nearest point to the Annam coast on the whole Mékong (1). [361]

(1) From Tha-Khèk to the mouth of the Cua-Nhuong (Hatinh) is reckoned 180 kilometers as the crow flies.

Just below the 17th parallel is found Muong-Panom, the holy city [87] [Illustration] [88] [Blank page] [89] of Laos and a celebrated spot of pilgrimage, by reason a That (1) which is said to contain relics [778]

(1) A that is a kind of stele or four-sided pyramid.

of Buddha. Opposite Panom, on the left bank, the Sé-Bang-Fai flows into the Mékong.

The Sé-Bang-Fai comes from the Annamitic Chain. It has a sinuous and extremely long course, but cannot be navigated in any season except by pirogues as far as Pou-Houa, that is to say for a distance of about eighty kilometers.

Below its mouth, and thirty kilometers upstream from Savannakhèt, is the Keng-Kabao. The latter deserves mention here, for during the low water period it forms an insurmountable obstacle for steam launches, which never go below this point from November to July.

Difficulties in navigation do not begin until after Hueûn-Hin, and the steam launches of the River Merchant Fleet Company [compagnie des Messageries fluviales] could reach that point during the high water period if there were any commercial advantage to be gained by so doing.

A series of rapids stretches over a length of about 160 kilometers between Hueûn-Hin and Pak-Moun. These are known as the "rapids of Kemmarat" because of the large muong (2) on the right bank which [631]

(2) Muong = province; also means capital of a province.

is located along this part of the river. They are a succession of rapids

648 439 175 "However, since it did not appear advisable to sanction the abandonment of the commercial agencies by an official act, which might have been regarded by the Laotian people and by the Court of Bangkok as a modification of the policy followed in the Mekong valley by the French Government," the positions were not discontinued, but only the officials who had held them.

It is thus that today the ten commercial agencies are directed by the administrators of neighboring provinces or by chief clerks or chief guards who perform the functions of commercial agents.

• 631 175 Temporary organization. Government commissionerships. Missions. As soon as the terms of the Franco-Siamese treaty of October 3, 1893, became known, various missions originating in Annam and Cochinchina were sent to Laos to reconnoiter, and set up a temporary organization for the territories on the left bank of the Mekong to which Siam had abandoned its claims.

In Upper Laos our agents, who were already established on the right bank at Luang-Prabang, took possession of the territory bearing this name. Then in the course of the first half of 1894, when the government commissioner M. Vacle had arrived, they settled in the former Annamite phus of Tran-Bienh and Tran-Ninh and in the territory of [Map, unpaged, inserted here] [273] Vien-Tiane. Somewhat later the assistant commissioner of the French Republic in Laos (1) and

(1) The general commissioner of the French Republic in Laos, M. Pavie, was the chief of two frontier delimitation missions which operated in the basin of the Red River, the Black River and the Mekong. His assistant commissioner was M. Lefèvre-Pontalis.

one of our former commercial agents in Luang-Prabang went out to reconnoiter and organize the territories of Xieng-Khong (left bank), Poukha and Muong-Sing (2).

(2) A newly appointed government commissioner went out to take possession of the territory of the two Muong-Hou and settled at Muong-Ha-Hine to await the impending delimitation of the territory.

In middle Laos, two administrative agents delegated by the

149: Reinach--193a G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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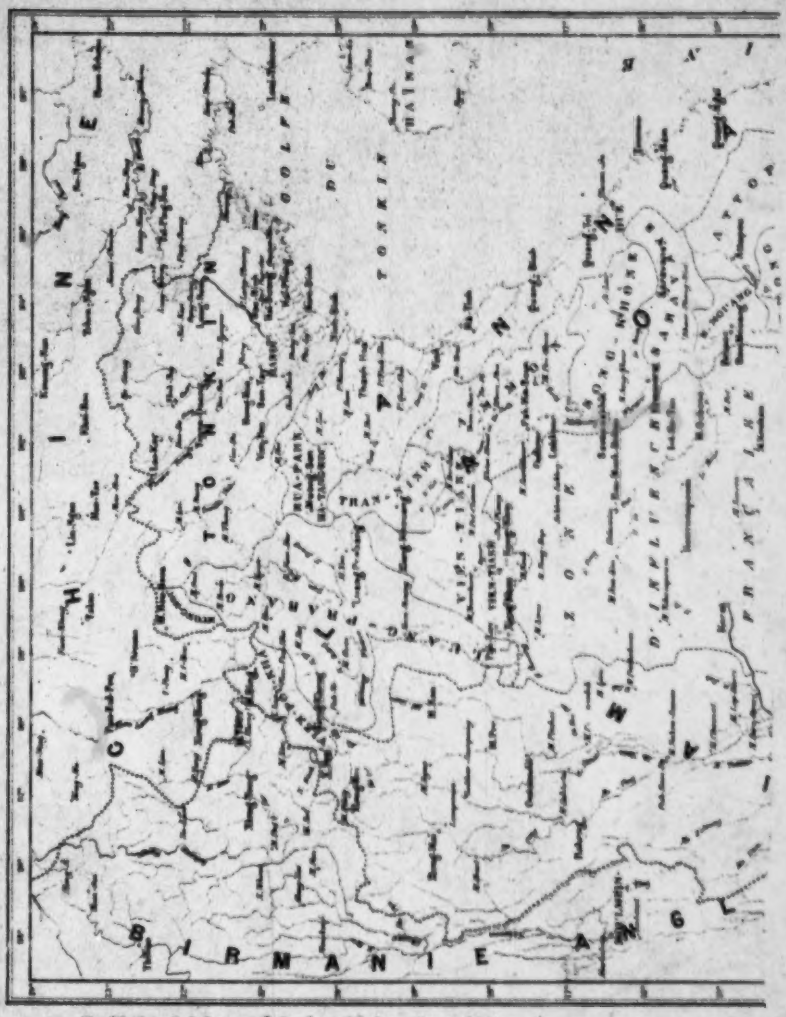

Political Map of Indo-China in 1901.

Plate 5, Part A /between pp. 272-3/

149: Reinach--193b G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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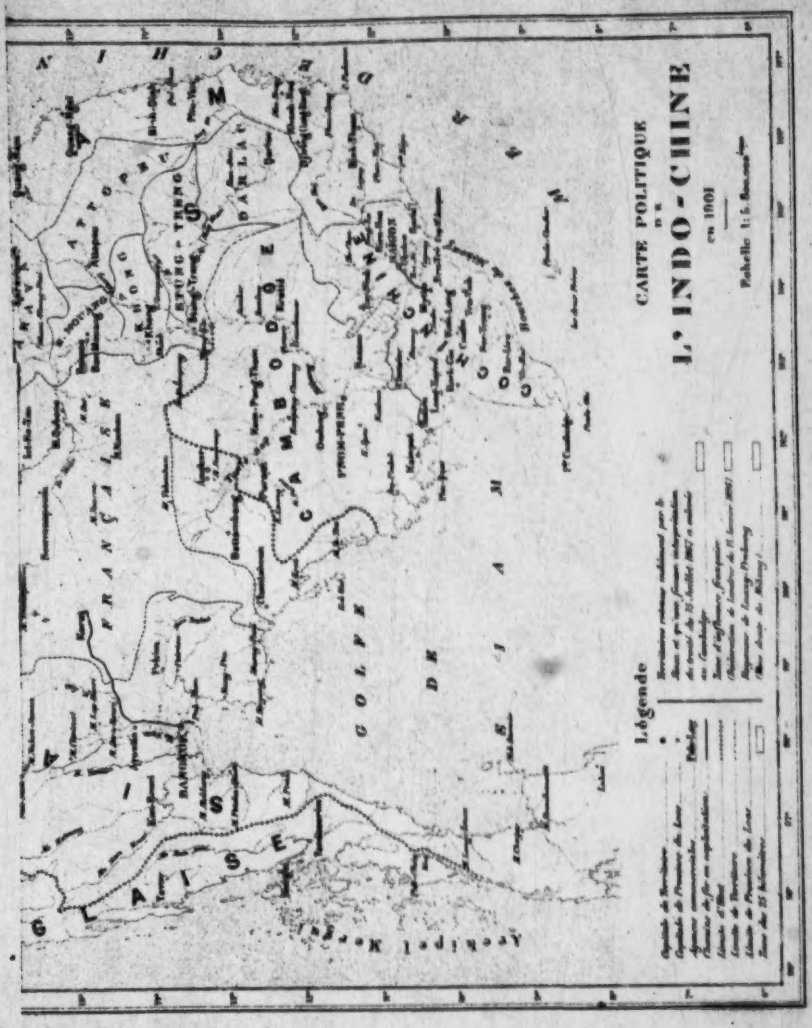

Political Map of Indo-China in 1901.

Plate 5, Part B /between pp. 272-3/

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Superior Resident in Annam established our authority in the former Annamite phus of Tran-Dinh, Tran-Tinh, Lac-Bien, Cam-Lo and Quang-Dinh. They founded the centers of Faureville (now Pak-Hin-Boun) and Song-Khone (3).

(3) The capital of the province of Song-Khone was soon after transferred to Savannakhet.

In the south Commander Tournier, who had already been placed in command of the troops stationed at Khong, Stung-Treng, Attopeu and Ban-Mouang, was at the same time entrusted with civil authority in these territories.

At the beginning of the second half of 1894 three administrators set out from Cochinchina to succeed Commander Tournier, who had been appointed to a mission for delimiting the Sino-Annamite frontiers, and to organize the provinces of Khong, Ban-Mouang, Attopeu and Stung-Treng at the expense of the Cochinchinese budget.

Permanent organization. The Superior Resident on service and the Superior Commandants. In 1895 M. Boulloche, Superior Resident on service in Laos, was made responsible for organizing our new possession on a permanent basis.

Laos was divided into two parts, named Upper Laos and Lower Laos, each of which was autonomous. The former included all the territories between Yunnan, the Anglo-Shan States, Tonkin and Annam as far as the [274] northern limits of Cammon. The capital of Upper Laos was Luang-Prabang.

Lower Laos included all the territories situated between the Mekong and the Annamitic Chain, from the northern limits of Cammon to Cambodia. Its capital was Khong.

A high official with the title of Superior Commandant was placed at the head of each of these divisions. He was directly responsible to the Governor General and had the duties and privileges of Superior Residents in the other parts of Indo-China.

Each of these divisions of Laos was organized into a certain number of commissionerships, respecting in most cases the old administrative subdivisions or those which had been newly created by the Siamese. The Sib-Song-Chau-Thais, however, which had previously been dependencies of Luang-Prabang, were joined administratively to Tonkin, and in 1888 part of the territory of the Hua-Pahn-Ha-Tang-Hoc was attached to the province of Tanh-Hoa (Annam).

631 Upper Laos contained six commissionerships and Lower Laos seven.
175 Each was directed by an official with the title of Government Commissioner [Commissaire] (similar to the title of "commissioner" in British possessions). He was assisted by a clerk, scholars and a native interpreter.

Because of their many and varied duties, government commissioners must have extensive knowledge. In fact, these officials are responsible for general administration, police, collecting taxes and duties, selling opium, public works, justice, public education and, in centers without doctors, for the health service.

A further factor to complicate their task is that the circumscriptions are large and communications difficult.

247 Just as in physiology "the function creates the organ," so must our agents become topographers, naturalists, geologists, engineers, architects, etc. all at the same time. Each of them devotes his talents to the task, striving to do his best and able to count only on himself. [275] [Illustration] [276] [Blank page] [277] Their task is facilitated, however, by the zeal and specialized knowledge of the clerks and leaders of the native guard, who are inspectors and chief guards, former officers or sub-officers of the army. Most of these agents have been on campaigns in Algeria or in the colonies and are used to shifting for themselves, to use an expression which is as apt as it is picturesque.

To this system of individual initiative Laos owes the fact of possessing comfortable, durable and healthy installations built of wood, brick or cobwork which certain other colonies, although better endowed from the point of view of the availability of many technical services, did not possess to so high a degree after they had been established for ten years.

631 Present organization. By decree of the Governor
642 General dated February 6, 1899, the two divisions of Laos were joined and a united Laos was placed under the authority of a Superior Resident (1) named by decree of the President of the Republic. This same edict

(1) The enlightened choice of the Government fell on Lieutenant-colonel Tournier, former Superior Commandant in Lower Laos.

abolished the positions of Superior Commandants in Upper and Lower Laos.

Like Cochinchina, Laos is a direct dominion, but is administered according to the forms of a strict protectorate and therefore does not

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have any elected councils or parliamentary representation. Today it constitutes one of the five states in the Indo-Chinese union.

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A consequence of the unification of Laos was its division into provinces and the incorporation of its officials, who had heretofore been a staff apart, in the ranks of the Indo-China Civil Service.

The government commissioners have therefore become civil service administrators.

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Today each of the fourteen provinces of Laos is placed under the authority of an Administrator, and the latter is seconded by a civil service clerk.

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Native guard. In Laos there are no detachments of the troops stationed in Indo-China, but only a native civil guard [278] composed partly of Annamites and partly of Laotians. It constitutes a police force which is distributed in detachments of varying size under the command of inspectors and chief guardsmen. It is entirely at the disposition of the administrators who are heads of provinces. This native guard numbers twenty-seven inspectors and chief guardsmen and 850 men, of which 320 are volunteer Annamite enlisted men recruited in Annam and Tonkin, and 530 are natives recruited from all the races of Laos. It may be called on to lend its support, if the need arise, to the native authorities who are responsible for maintaining order and security in their respective territories. Peace and order are so perfect in Laos, however, that one can go about freely without an escort.

652

The treasury service. The treasury service in Laos is headed by a bursar who holds the title of "Chief Bursar of the Treasury Service in Laos." He handles all matters dealing with receipts, expenditures and treasury operations in Laos in the same forms and according to the same rules as the other bursars who are heads of services in Indo-China.

He is assisted by a deputy bursar.

These two agents reside in Vien-Tiane.

744

Medical service. This service includes three colonial physicians on detachment in Laos who are in charge of the infirmaries at Luang-Prabang, Vien-Tiane (formerly at Pak-Hin-Boun) and Khong. They care for all sick persons, whether European or native, as has been noted above (1).

(1) See Chapter III, Health Service.

149: Reinach--201 G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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161

[287]

PROVINCE OF MUONG-HOU

Area: 4,500 square kilometers

Population: 4 Europeans, 8,000 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 187

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages	Registered inhabitants
Hou-Neua	49	1,362 (?)
Hou-Tai	35	

Muong-Hou-Neua (capital)

Distance from Vien-Tiane by way of Luang-Prabang: 766 kilometers.

Population:

4 Europeans, 250 natives.

Post occupied by the Native Guard:

Muong-Hou-Neua.....1 chief guardsman.

Postal and Telegraph service:

Muong-Hou-Neua.....Complete office.

149: Reinach--202 G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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161

PROVINCE OF VIEN-POUKHA

Area: 13,000 square kilometers.

Population: 6 Europeans, 23,986 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 167

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of Villages	Registered inhabitants
Vien-Poukha Xieng-Khong Xieng-Sene Luong-Nam-Tha Mugne Sing	524	10296

Muong-Sing (capital).

Distance from Vien-Tiane by way of Xieng-Khong and Luang-Prabang: 876 (?) kilometers.

Populations:

3 Europeans, (?) natives.

Posts occupied by the Native Guard:

Muong-Sing..... 1 chief guardsman.
Xieng-Khong: 1 chief guardsman performing the functions of commercial agent.

Postal and Telegraph service:

Vien-Poukha
Muong-Sing
Xieng-Khong } Complete offices.

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•631
161

[289] PROVINCE OF THE HUA-PAHN-HA-TANG-HOC

Area: 8,000 square kilometers.

Population: 3 Europeans, 15,000 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 188

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages	Registered inhabitants
Son	78	4,800 (?)
Xieng-Kho	139	
Het	49	
Hua-Muong	83	

Muong-Son (capital)

Distance from Vien-Tiane by way of Luang-Prabang: 744 kilometers.

Population:

3 Europeans, 228 natives.

Post occupied by the Native Guard:

Muong-Son.....1 chief guardsman.

Postal and Telegraph service:

none.

149: Reinach--204 G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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[290] PROVINCE OF LUANG-PRABANG

(right and left banks)

Area: 73,750 square kilometers

Population: 13 Europeans, including 1 merchant; 121,900 natives
(67,500 on the left bank)

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 165

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages	Registered persons
Luang-Prabang	108	
Pak-Hou	145	
Houng-Sa	27	
Pak-Ta	297	
Sagabouri	76	
Outhai-Thani-Si-Pak-Lay	114	29,494
Houng-Sieng-Houne	224	
Sai	206	
Ngoi	222	
Pak-Seng	206	
Xieng-Ngeun	108	
Khassy	59	

149: Reinach—206 G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

635
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161

[291] PROVINCE OF TRAN-NINH

Area: 20,000 square kilometers.

Population: 5 Europeans, including 2 merchants; 35,000 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 175.

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of Villages	Registered persons
Khat	34	
Kham	209	
Khang	25	
Soui	110	8,000
Sen	67	
Khouang	220	
Mok	35	

Xieng-Khouang (capital)

Distance from Vien-Tiane by way of Tourakhome: 240 (?) kilometers.

Population:

5 Europeans, 150 natives.

Post occupied by the Native Guard:

Xieng-Khouang.....1 chief guardsman.

Postal and Telegraph service:

none.

631 [292]

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161

PROVINCE OF VIEN-TIANE

Area: 20,000 square kilometers.

Population: 22 Europeans including 4 merchants; 50,000 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 205

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages	Registered persons
Vien-Tiane	222	11,500 (?)
Pat-Choum	54	
Borikane	41	
Tourakhome	185	

Vien-Tiane (capital).

Seat of the Superior Residency

Population:

21 Europeans, 2,700 natives.

Post occupied by the Native Guard:

Vien-Tiane..... 1 inspector, 1 chief guardsman.

Postal and Telegraph service:

Vien-Tiane..... Complete office.
Pat-Choum..... Secondary office.

Health service:

[743] 1 infirmary with 1 colonial physician.

63/635/162 [293]

PROVINCE OF CAMMON

Area: 30,000 square kilometers.

Population: 8 Europeans including 1 merchant, 30,000 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 100.

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages		Registered persons	
	Laotians	Pacified Khas	Laotians	Pacified Khas
Tha-Khek	113		1,480	
Pak-Hin-Boun	94		1,271	
Mahasay	200		1,262	
Kham-Keut	63		665	
Cammon	48		702	

Pak-Hin-Boun (capital)

Distance from Vien-Tiane: 348 kilometers.

Population: 4 Europeans, 250 natives.

Posts occupied by the Native Guard:

Pak-Hin-Boun.....1 chief guardsman.
Nape.....1 inspector.

Postal and Telegraph service:

Pak-Hin-Boun.....Secondary office.

Religion:

1 seminary at Don-Done
1 director.
2 missionaries.

[797]

149; Reinach--210 G-8 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

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162

[294] PROVINCE OF SONG-KHONE

Area: 21,000 square kilometers.

Population: 16 Europeans, 45,000 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 214.

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages		Registered persons	
	Laotians	Pacified Khas	Laotians	Pacified Khas
Khantabuli (Kong-Savannakhet and Sapang-Tong	130		2,914	
Champone(Muong-Sanumane)	119		2,856	
Song-Khone (Muong-Lahanam)	88		1,345	
Phong	53		320	
Tchepone(Muong-Xieng-Hom)	16	34	404	463
Vang (Muong-Vang-Kham and Kong-Atsapone	42	16	584	111
Phabang	6	4	28	42
Phalane	18	31	300	358
Phin	4	13	112	86
Nong	1	8	20	80

149; Reinach--212 G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

631
635
162

[295] PROVINCE OF SARAVANE

Area: 12,000 square kilometers.

Population: 3 Europeans, 30,000 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 250

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages		Registered persons	
	Laotians	Pacified Khas	Laotians	Pacified Khas
Khamthong-Niai	63	56	1,050	770
Kong	15		483	
Saphat	13	5	250	57
Smia	5	2	135	54
Wapy	34	16	693	201
Southabali	11	18	150	160
Saravane	48	100	1,315	1,364
Khamthong-Noi	14	3	225	57
Lakhone-Peng	5		92	

Saravane (capital)

Distance from Vien-Tiane:
1. by land as far as Savannakhet by way of Muong-Kong, 728 kilometers
2. by river via Pak-Se-Done, 895 kilometers.

Population: 3 Europeans, 650 natives.

Post occupied by the Native Guard:

Saravane.....1 chief guardsman

Postal and Telegraph service:

Saravane, Kamthong-Niai.....Secondary offices.

635 [296]
631
162

PROVINCE OF BAN- MOUANG

Area: 6, 000 square kilometers.

Population: 7 Europeans including 2 merchants, 36, 000 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 600.

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages		Registered persons	
	Laotians	Pacified Khas	Laotians	Pacified Khas
Fiafay	43	51	1, 816	854
Pak-Sedone	47	71	1, 978	1, 114
Sa-Phai	20	5	1, 062	67
Souvannakhili	11		405	

Ban-Mouang (capital)

Distance from Vien-Tiane: 760 kilometers.

Population: 4 Europeans, 350 natives.

Post occupied by the native guard:

Ban-Mouang.....1 chief guardsman.

Postal and Telegraph service:

Ban-Mouang.....Complete office.

Cochinchina River Merchant Fleet:

Agency at Don-Kho with 1 European agent.

149: Reinach--214 G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

635
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162

PROVINCE OF ATTOPEU

Area: 18,000 square kilometers.

Population: 11 Europeans, 64,600 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 360.

Administrative Divisions

Muong	Number of villages		Registered persons	
	Laotians	Pacified Khas	Laotians	Pacified Khas
Attopeu	28	59	1,300	1,956

Attopeu (capital)

Distance from Vien-Tiane by way of Fiafay: 927 kilometers.

Population:

3 Europeans, 900 natives.

Post occupied by the Native Guard:

Attopeu.....1 chief guardsman.

Postal and Telegraph service:

Attopeu.....secondary office.

Religion:

Catholic mission of the Bahnars.

1 provicar superior, 7 missionaries, 7 Christian communities.

Kon-Toum, Kon-Money, Kon-Ketou, Kon-Xabang, Kon-Ngo, Kon-Trang, Ro-Hay.

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[298]
•631
162

PROVINCE OF KHONG

Area: 3,000 square kilometers.

Population: 14 Europeans, 26,800 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 900 (?)

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages		Registered persons	
	Laotians	Pacified Khas	Laotians	Pacified Khas
Khong	76	13	4,323	147
Siempang	19	24	540	392

Khong (capital)

Distance from Vien-Tiane: 862 kilometers.

Population: 7 Europeans, 600 natives.

Administrative post at Khone: 1 delegate of the commissioner.

Posts occupied by the Native Guard:

Khong
Khone } 1 chief guardsman.

Postal and Telegraph service:

Khong.....Complete office.
Khone.....Secondary office.

Health service: 1 infirmary at Khong with 1 colonial physician.

Laotian Fleet: Launch "Haiphong" with 1 European engineer.

Cochinchina River Merchant Fleet: Agency at Khone with 3 European agents.

Steam launch: "Garcerie" at Ban Dong with 3 Europeans.

149: Reinach--216 G-3 (no date) 1901 AM1 Indochina
Laotians AM8

635
631
162

[299] PROVINCE OF STUNG-TRENG

Area: 20,000 square kilometers.

Population: 9 Europeans including 2 merchants, 60,000 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 300.

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages		Registered persons	
	Laotians	Pacified Khas	Laotians	Pacified Khas
Stung-Treng	61	114	1,441	3,201

Stung-Treng (capital)

Distance from Vien-Tiane: 942 kilometers.

Population: 9 Europeans, 1,500 natives.

Posts occupied by the Native Guard:

Stung-Treng
Ban-Phi } 1 chief guardsman.

Postal and Telegraph service:

Stung-Treng.....Complete office.

Laotian Fleet: Launch "Argus".

Cochinchina River Merchant Fleet:

Agency at Stung-Treng with 1 European agent.

Launches: "Cygne", "Mouette".

[300] PROVINCE OF DARLAC

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162

Area: 10,500 square kilometers.

Population: 4 Europeans, 25,200 natives.

Population density per 100 square kilometers: 250 (?).

Administrative Divisions

Muongs	Number of villages		Registered persons	
	Laotians	Pacified Khas	Laotians	Pacified Khas
Darlac	1	98	60	6,000

Darlac (capital).

Distance from Vien-Tiane by way of Stung-Treng: 1,282 (?) kilometers.

Population: 3 Europeans, (?) natives.

Posts occupied by the Native Guard:

Ban-Don.....1 chief guardsman.

Darlac.....1 chief guardsman.

Postal and Telegraph service:

None.

644 The functionaries responsible for minor duties inside the palace, under the orders of their chief the Maha-Monti, are the:

Maha-Nosit, Lasa-Nosit, Lasa-Mat, Sanet, Sakame-Nane, Latsavat, Out-Thamonti, Sene-Thong-Niot, Sathipavot.

[652] [493] The treasurers, storekeepers and palace guards have the 647 titles of:

Phaya-Vi-Sai-Monthiene, Phone-Seuk-Khoua, Phone-Seuk-Sai.

697 Finally the jailers and scourgers (or executioners) under the command of the king or of the head of the justice department:

Phone-Tesak, Sa-Phakdi, Sa-Dab-Khame, Vong-Phouthone.

635 In the provinces, the head of a muong bears a title which is 631 personal to him, "Phaya" or "Phya," to which he adds that of "Tiao-Muong" and the name of the province, as Phaya-Si-Vorarat-Phrak-Di, Tiao-Muong-Vien-Tiane.

Under his command he has principal mandarins in the number of three, who bear the titles of "Oupahat," "Latsavong" and "Latsaboute." Each of them is generally responsible for the administration of one part of the muong, under the supervision of the "Tiao-Muong."

These high officials are seconded, depending on the importance of the muong, by a larger or smaller number of counselors or judges who bear the titles of "Sen," "Tiane," "Khang," etc.

Muongs are generally divided into cantons, and the heads of the [623] latter bear the title of "Taseng." Each canton includes several villages or "Bans," and each of these has at its head a mayor who is usually called "Pho-Ban" (the father of the village). The head of a village is aided by a kind of council or assembly of notables, the titles of whom are "Pia," "Luong," "Koun," "Sen," "Mune" or "Nai."

643 The four principal leaders of a muong, that is to say the "Tiao-646 Muong," the "Oupahat," the "Latsavong" and the "Latsaboute" (1),

(1) In the Hua-Pahn-Ha-Tang-Hoc, the heads of muongs bear the following titles: "Phaya" (Tiao-Muong), "Phya-Hua-Pahn" (Oupahat), "Phya-Balat" (Latsavong), "Phya-Kam" (Latsaboute). In accordance with custom, these offices are hereditary and sons succeed their fathers, except for the office of "Phaya" (Tiao-Muong) where the rule is not absolute.

are [494] elected either by the nobles or by commoners who possess certain aptitudes and sufficient intellectual culture. The whole population, nobles, officials and common people, are consulted. Then the